



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

JUL 01 2010

Thomas Meacham  
Thomas Meacham Attorney at Law  
9500 Prospect Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-5924

Dear Mr. Meacham:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

Your letter raises biological and social issues that are important for us to consider. Specifically, you address the importance of Kvichak and Nushagak fish and wildlife for commercial, subsistence and recreational uses; the location of the Pebble deposit on the divide of the two watersheds; the large scale of the potential project; the need for perpetual control of pollutants; the potential scale of direct and secondary effects; and more. We understand that the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds are unique and produce more salmon than anywhere on earth. We are aware of the ecological implications of this large number of salmon for the watersheds, the Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, and are sensitive to the potential effects on Alaska Native subsistence activities and culture in the Bristol Bay area.

We ask for your patience as we consider your request and review the information at hand and how it reflects on our options for addressing these issues. Please feel free to call me or Richard Parkin, Acting Director of our Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs at (206) 553-8574 to further discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. McLerran *for*  
Regional Administrator



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JUL 01 2010

Thomas Tilden  
Curyung Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 216  
531 D Street  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Dear Mr. Tilden:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

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JUL 01 2010

Geoffrey Parker  
634 K Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Parker:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

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JUL 01 2010

Herman Nelson  
Koliganik Village Council  
P.O. Box 5057  
Koliganik, Alaska 99576

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

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OFFICE OF THE  
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Jack Hobson  
Nondalton Tribal Council Environmental Program  
P.O. Box 49  
Nondalton, Alaska 99640

Dear Mr. Hobson:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. McLerran".

Dennis J. McLerran  
Regional Administrator



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JUL 01 2010

Sergie Chukwak  
Levelock Village Council  
P.O. Box 70  
Levelock, Alaska 99625

Dear Mr. Chukwak:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

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JUL 01 2010

Dennis Andrew  
New Stuyahok Traditional Council  
P.O. Box 49  
Stuyahok, Alaska 99636

Dear Mr. Andrew:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

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JUL 01 2010

Luki Akelkok  
Ewok Village Council  
P.O. Box  
Ekwok, Alaska 99580

Dear Mr. Akelkok:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin a public process under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) in relation to the potential Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay drainage of Southwest Alaska. I appreciate your thoughtful and well reasoned letter and wish to respond to you in a timely way, however, as you can understand, such a decision takes a good deal of deliberation. In the meantime, my staff and I are carefully considering your request. We expect to provide a more substantive response in the following months.

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